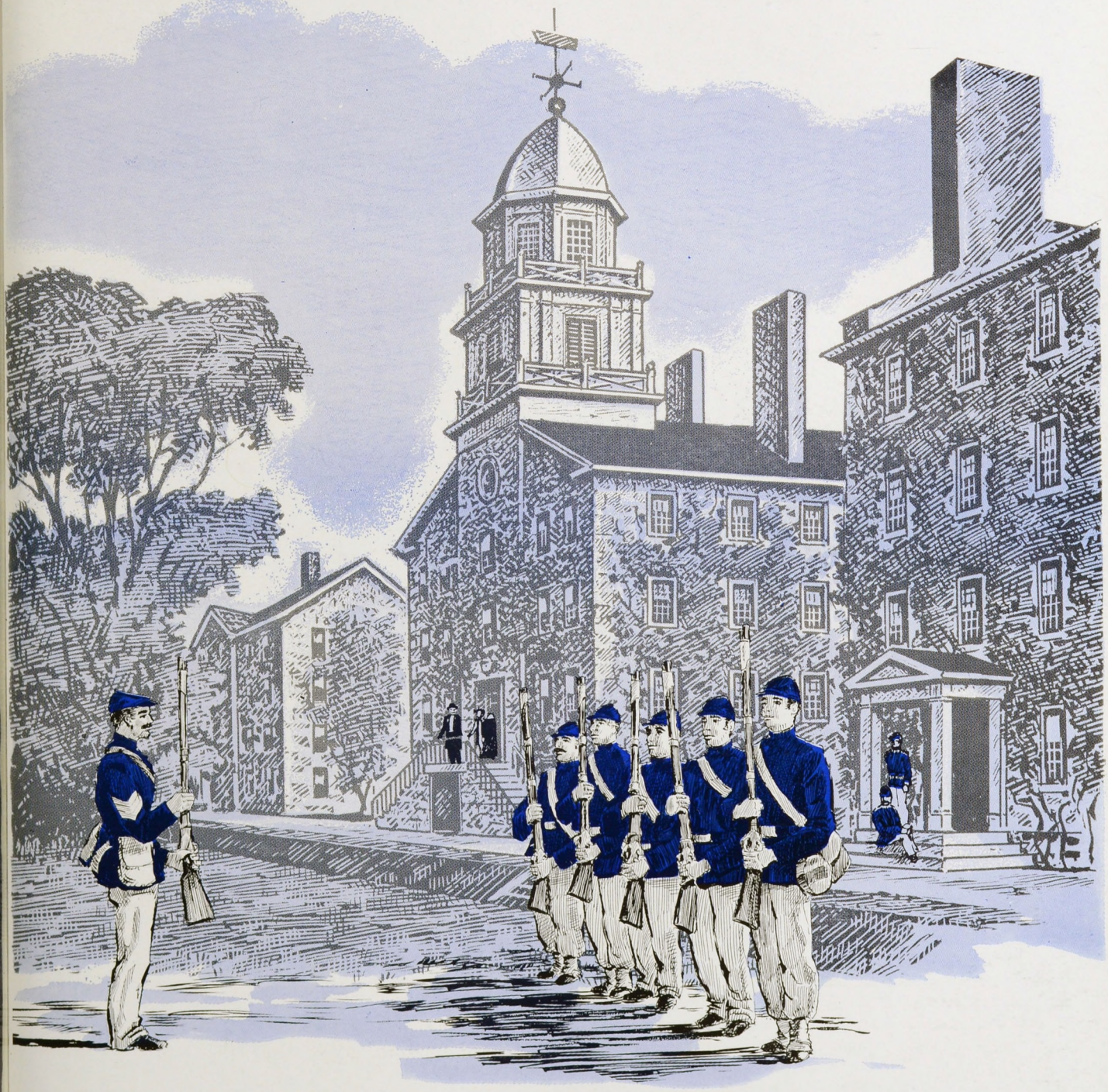
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Summer 1961

Your Family and Middlebury

SENT BY THE COLLEGE TO MIDDLEBURY PARENTS AND FRIENDS



In this issue Middlebury and The Civil War

News of the COLLEGE

Invitation to Parents to Attend Parents Weekend, Oct. 21, 22

THE 1961 Parents Weekend is scheduled for October 21st and 22nd. This annual program is scheduled to give parents the opportunity to visit the College when it is in session. Similar to previous years, the program will include a special parents luncheon in the Memorial Field House prior to the Middlebury-Bates football game at Porter Field. President and Mrs. Samuel S. Stratton will hold a reception for visiting parents immediately following the game.

On Saturday, October 21st, parents will have an opportunity to visit classes. Parents will also have the opportunity to meet members of the faculty at various funcitons scheduled for the weekend.

A printed invitation to the 1961 Parents Weekend will be sent to all parents of undergraduates in early September. Included with the invitation will be a return card listing events for the weekend so that visiting parents may indicate the functions they wish to attend.

Since preferences for room accommodations vary, it is necessary that all parents attending Parents Weekend arrange for their own reservations. Frequently sons and daughters in College assist parents in securing reservations for the busy weekend.

Student Planned Good Will Tour To South America Gets Underway

EDWIN W. NAYLOR, '63, and five companions are on a private Peace Corps project designed to promote Pan-American good will. The youths are making a 20,000 mile trip by amphibious landing vehicle—sometimes called a 'duck'—to 80 colleges in Central and South America.

The purpose of this trip is to further mutual understanding between young people of North America and Latin America. The voyage, across ocean and river, through jungle and roads aboard "El Pato Valiente" (the Brave Duck) will take them six months. The ten-year-old vehicle converted from a dingy army surplus khaki duck has been repainted brightly in red, white and blue and put into first class mechanical shape.

During the past year Edwin Naylor has his five companions, who are students at other colleges and universities, have been raising funds for the trip by various means. They figure that they will spend $5,000.

According to Ed. "on the way, we'll stop at Latin American colleges—not the big ones, the small ones, where we can talk to students, sing, tell them about the United States. We'll spend the summer in Mexico learning Spanish."

College Calendar

1961 FIRST SEMESTER

September
14—Thursday, Freshman Week begins
17—Freshman Convocation (10:45 a.m.) Mead Chapel
18—Monday, classes begin (8 a.m.)

October
14—Saturday, Alumni Homecoming Day (College in Session)
21—Saturday, Parents' Weekend (College in Session)

November
4—Saturday, Norwich football game, away (Classes end at 11 a.m. 8, 9 and 10 o'clock classes at usual hour, 11:00 classes at 4:00 p.m. on November 3)
18—Saturday, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. classes same as Wednesday p.m.
22—Wednesday, (12 noon) Thanksgiving Recess begins.
27—Monday, Classes resumed, (8 a.m.)

December
9—Saturday, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. classes same as Wednesday p.m.
13—Wednesday, (12 noon) Christmas Recess begins.

1962

January
4— Tuesday, Classes resumed, (8 a.m.)
20—Saturday, First Semester classes end
22—Monday, Final Examinations begin
31—Wednesday, Examinations end.

SECOND SEMESTER

February
5—Monday, Second Semester classes begin (8 a.m.)
17—Saturday, 1:00–4:00 p.m. Classes same as Thursday p.m.
22—Thursday, (12 noon) Winter Carnival Recess begins
26—Monday, classes resumed (8 a.m.)

March
31—Saturday, Spring Recess begins, (12 noon)

April
9—Monday, Classes resumed (8 a.m.)

May
26—Saturday, Classes end
28—Monday, Final Examinations begin

June
6—Wednesday, Examinations end
9—Saturday, Class Day
10—Sunday, Baccalaureate
11—Monday, Commencement

The College's first major tree planting program was completed this spring with more than a hundred trees and shrubs being set in new locations to replace those lost through the years by ice storms, 1950 hurricane, disease and age. In a number of locations trees have been grouped in a scheme consistent with the older arrangements. Pines and hemlock have been used in the planting program, as well as several varieties of maple, American beech, tulip trees, and cork bark, among others.

Your Family and Middlebury

Vol. 5, No. 4 — GEORGE H. HUBAN, *Editor* — Summer 1961

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The Cover: Artist's Conception of members of the Middlebury College Guards drilling in front of Painter Hall after the news of the surrender of Fort Sumter to the Confederate forces reached the campus

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◀ View of Redfield Proctor Hall from the tower of Mead Memorial Chapel.

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PARENTS FUND

Raises Record Total of $72,622.75

The 1960–61 Parents Fund closed on June 30, 1961 with gifts and pledge payments totaling $72,622.75. This is the highest amount ever raised by the Parents Fund in any one year. A comparison with previous years for the Parents Fund is as follows:

1954–55	$ 6,842.75
1955–56	5,317.50
1956–57	7,975.52
1957–58	16,538.82
1958–59	26,431.74
1959–60	22,741.38
1960–61	72,622.75

Gifts and pledge payments by generous parents in support of the Library Appeal in its closing phase accounted for the magnificent results achieved.

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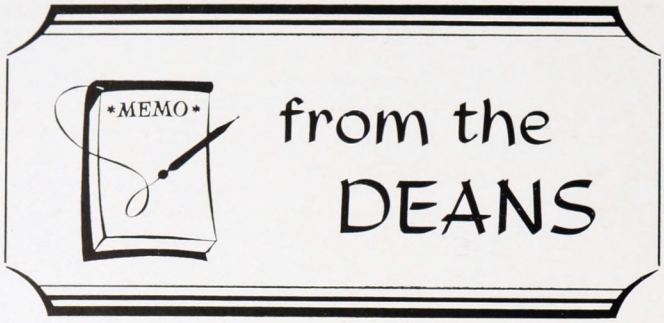
Parents Fund Gifts

(Other Purposes)

Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Wilson
Gift for H. Michael Wilson Memorial Scholarship

Donors marked with an asterisk* became "Library Shareholders" in the Library Program.



Dean of Men . . .

From time to time the Dean's Office receives questions from parents which inadvertently indicate an attitude of surprise at either the laxity, or sometimes the strictness, of the college rules concerning men at Middlebury.

I would like to devote these few lines to an explanation of the basic rules and regulations for men at Middlebury with a word or two concerning what lies behind the absence of more rules and the existence of those that we have.

In general, the College requires only of her men students that they live in Middlebury with the same sense of decorum which they would in their own communities. We ask that men students behave as gentlemen and we reserve the right to ask them to withdraw for violations of all that this simple statement entails. There are very few specific regulations. We think in general that by the time a young man comes to college he must have learned, or should quickly learn, to take care of himself without the underlying support of specific rules and regulations controlling his everyday behavior.

However, where large bodies of people are gathered together there must always be some additional special regulations to insure the common harmony of the entire group. Some of these regulations include the following:

At Middlebury no freshman or sophomore, unless he is over 21, may maintain or drive an automobile. This rule is strictly enforced and students are acquainted with the details of the law in their Handbooks at the beginning of each year. In part this law is necessary because we do not think that cars for freshmen and sophomores contribute positively to their academic well-being. However, located as we are, remote from metropolitan areas, and in the midst of country which invites winter sports and other outdoor activities, we see the value for upperclassmen who have learned not to over-abuse their privilege, to have automobiles.

Another rule controls the use of firearms. Again, because of hunting and other activities, we do not wish to preclude the use of firearms but insist strictly on their registration and proper care. Stu- (*Please turn to page* 15)

Dean of Women . . .

Redfield Proctor Hall, our new student center, was opened last fall replacing the old "Stu U" which had outlived its usefulness, but which was much beloved by all the students who had gathered there since 1947. The new building was not immediately accepted by the upperclass students, but the freshmen used it from the day school opened for they regarded it as their building. It was quite natural that they should take over since they ate all their meals in the dining room, picked up their mail in the post office, gathered in the Crest Room (the snack bar) and made many trips to the Book Store. In addition to these necessary functions of the building it provided social meeting places in the lounges and the game room.

Middlebury College had never had a dining room which was large enough to accommodate all freshmen (men and women) until Proctor Hall was built. Co-educational eating three times a day was enjoyed by this year's freshman class and it was judged by all to be a great success. For the first time girls and boys saw each other regularly under circumstances other than in the classroom or on dates. Because the service was cafeteria it allowed them to be more leisurely at their meals in addition to the social benefits derived from being together.

The game room and the lounge were used continuously. The fact that about 35,000 visits by students, faculty and guests to the lounge, offices and game room during this first year attests to the fact that the building was a busy place.

This building is in charge of a very able director, Mr. Lynn Hinman, who has been able to build a successful program because he is liked and respected by the students. The Board of Governors (made up of faculty, administration and students) is responsible for the total program. It is a great honor and a responsibility for a student to be chosen as one of the nine student members of the Board. This year there were 89 studenst who applied for these nine places. There were, however, 225 other students who worked on the seven committees which worked to develop the program of Proctor Hall.

There is no question that Proctor Hall has justified its existence for it has been the center for student relaxation and recreation. Many extracurricular activities such as Mountain Club, the College newspaper, the College Radio Station, the Year Book and Student Government have had their headquarters there and many others have had meetings there.

Next year, the second year of operation will be even more important for the Student Center. There will be no fraternity rushing or pledging for the entire year which means that Proctor will be the social center for all freshman men. The fraternity (*Please turn to page* 15)

PRESIDENT'S Page

It is with pleasure and deep satisfaction that I devote this Page to some items that will be welcome news to alumni and friends. As I write this Page for *Your Family and Middlebury*, gifts and pledges for the Library Building Program total $1,350,000, and the goal for which we have worked so hard is achieved. Although our objective was only to raise funds for building and furnishings, a happy by-product of our efforts was a substantial beginning on a Library Endowment Fund. This came about because one foundation approached for a gift regretted that it could not make grants for "bricks and mortar" but graciously agreed to make a gift of $100,000 for an endowment fund for the purchase of books.

A second gift of $2,000 came to us from a devoted friend of the College and the Library to be used "for the benefit of the Egbert Starr Library". Hence we have raised $102,000 in excess of our goal of $1,350,000, and it is my hope that the funds given us for endowment will prove to be only a beginning for a substantial library endowment which will insure us a college library of the highest excellence.

It is of course the alumni, parents, trustees, corporations, and foundations who have once again demonstrated their faith in Middlebury and their willingness to support their faith with a substantial gift of a modern and beautiful library building. Although foundations and corporations responded very generously to our solicitation of funds, without the wide support of thousands of alumni and parents, it would have been difficult indeed to have asked successfully for funds from these other sources. Always during the fund campaign, the question would be asked, "What kind of support are the alumni giving?" And always I have been proud to answer that the alumni young and old were showing loyal and generous interest.

To all who helped achieve this success, I extend enthusiastic congratulations; and for the faculty and students of today and tomorrow, I can express sincere and warm gratitude. With our recent emphasis on independent study and our Honors Program, our modern facilities have been accomplished not a day too soon. Indeed, it can be said that without the library expansion, our academic ambitions for Middlebury would have been severely constricted. Now that we have the tools, it is up to us to make good use of them. I know that we shall do so appreciatively and effectively. The actual construction of the last phase of the building expansion should be completed not later than February 1962.

It is not often that one can announce the completion of one facility and the initiation of a new facility at the same time. However, before the final phase of the library wing is in full use, considerable progress will have been made on the construction of a swimming pool. Malcom T. Anderson, Class of 1925, in his bequest to the college left in excess of $100,000 to be used for the construction of a swimming pool when sufficient additional funds to make it possible had been raised. The College was notified of the bequest in November of 1956. At the same time there was sent to me from the safe deposit box of Malcom Anderson a letter he addressed to me June 1955. It read as follows:

Dear Prexy,
'What Does Middlebury Mean to Me' was the subject of articles in The News Letter. When you are informed of my WILL, you will find my answer. Middlebury has meant more to me than any place, anything, or anyone . . . Possibly you can use the money I have left to 'kick off' a drive for a swimming pool . . . . This has been a life time project for me.

'Mac' Anderson '25

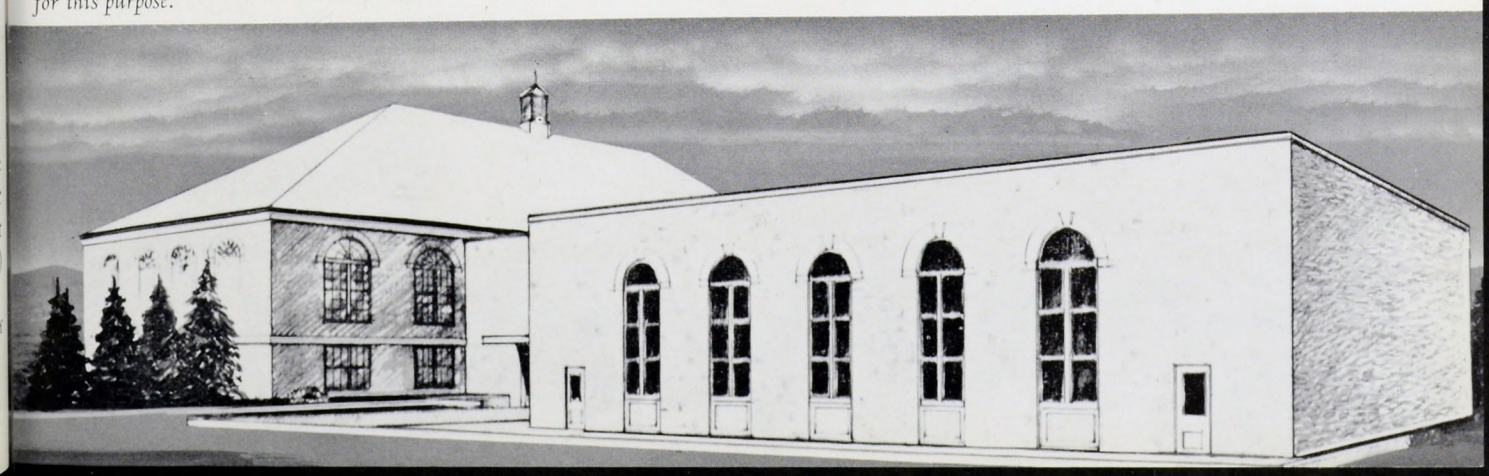
The letter went on to name individuals he would suggest to lead such a "drive" to complete the funds for the construction of a pool.

Fortunately it has not been necessary even to consider starting a campaign to fulfill Mr. Anderson's objectives. Within the last few days a most generous gift of $200,000 to be used only for the construction of the swimming pool has supplemented the original bequest to an extent that makes it possible for us to start immediately on the project. If supplementary funds should prove to be necessary, there will be no general solicitation of alumni for this purpose. The donors, a man and wife, who are enthusiastic and devoted supporters of Middlebury, shall remain anonymous but only until the new facility is completed.

The building housing the pool, which is of standard collegiate dimensions, will be erected as an extension of McCullough Gymnasium in a southerly direction extending toward the heating plant. The new Pool will open on to a terrace facing Stewart and Hepburn Halls. This new facility may lead to both men's and women's varsity swimming teams, but its primary purpose is to add a recreational and physical education facility for both men and women students. We have long envied the swimming facilities in other New England colleges, and I know that all of us are immensely grateful to Malcom Anderson of the Class of 1925 and to the gracious and generous donors whose names will be made known at a later date.

Samuel S. Stratton

View of architect's drawing for proposed swimming pool to be located adjacent to McCullough Gymnasium. This view is from the front of Stewart Hall on the upper campus looking northeast towards Starr Hall, Old Chapel and the mountains. Pool is made possible by two gifts given to the College specifically for this purpose.



The campus of Middlebury College during Civil War years.

Middlebury and The Civil War

By Isabel Gomez, '63

It is inevitable on this centennial anniversary of our Civil War that Middlebury College, like countless other communities across the country, should take a brief look back at those middle years of the last century which have taken so large a place in the American consciousness and in the shaping of the American destiny.

Somehow, "brief looks back" have a way of garnering only black-and-white pictures for the mind's eye—pictures quite devoid of the complex colorings of actuality. In the glare of heroes and events, the subtle shades of the commonplace are often distorted or entirely lost. Amateur historical accounts like this one are largely presentations of these black-and-white images. But in order to sense the color of an age in which one has never lived, something additional is required; it is with imagination that we dust off the lean facts of history. Imagine, then, Middlebury College as it was 100 years ago.

The Reverend Benjamin Labaree was President of an institution that in 1861 had begun a definite upward swing from desperately black days in the 40's. The school had survived a nearly-fatal financial crisis, then a mysterious epidemic which threatened the entire student body and faculty in 1847, actually killing four or five men and driving attendance to a perilous low. By 1861, relative prosperity had been restored; and the student population was slightly over 100 for the first time since the late 1830's.

During this period, the academic calendar was divided into three terms; and college was in session throughout the year, with four-week vacations in August and December and a two-week recess in May. Tuition was $27 per year; board and room, about $80. "Fuel, lights, and washing" amounted to $15 annually, and lab fees were 67c per term!

The course of study, which allowed no electives, included five lab sciences (chemistry, astronomy, botany, anatomy-physiology, and geology) for everyone. In addition, all Middlebury graduates had a thorough knowledge of classical literature and had studied German, mathematics, metaphysics, English and American literature, philosophy, and international law. For admission, freshmen were examined in Latin Grammar and composition, Greek Grammar, Cicero, Virgil, Sallust, Xenophon, Homer, geography, arithmetic and elements of algebra!

A great deal of time was devoted to the study and practice of rhetoric. Weekly, the members of the two upper classes prepared original pieces for delivery in

the chapel on Wednesday afternoon. Besides listening to the orations of their peers, underclassmen were required to do written translations from the classics into English every alternate week.

The confidence of those early nineteenth-century students in the probability of peace is difficult to comprehend in a time so fearful as ours. The last thing most people in Vermont during the 1840's and '50's considered—even at serious-minded Middlebury—was the possibility of war. The state had ceased to make appropriations for the support of a militia, and all laws requiring military duty had been repealed. In 1856, not a single military organization existed in Vermont. A mild flurry of Yankee foresightedness succeeded in arousing some military interest in 1858; by 1860 twenty-two companies had nominal existence.

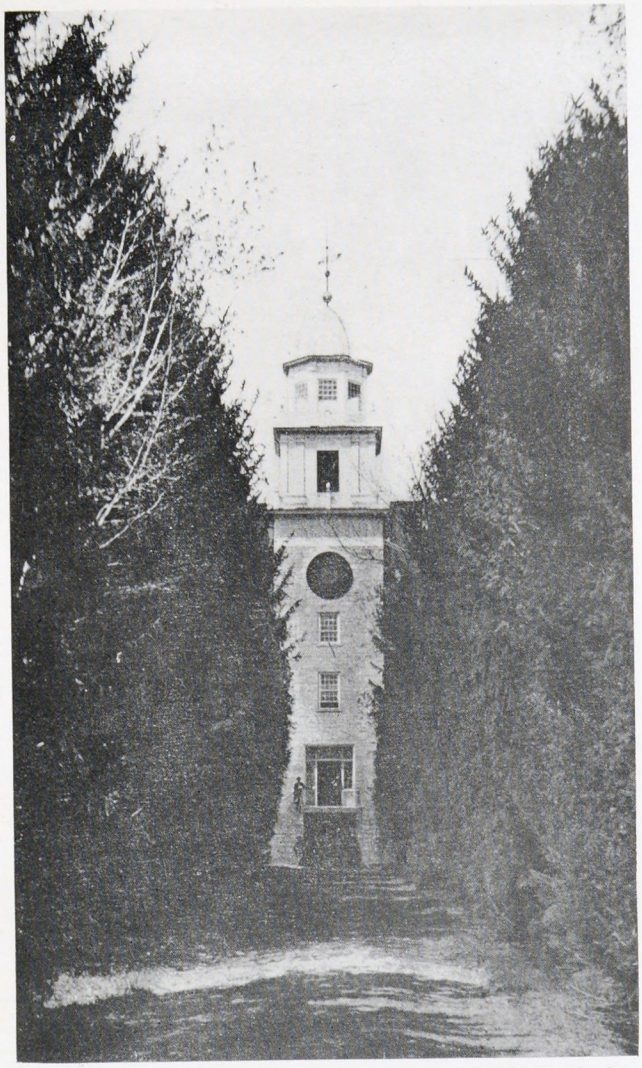
IN THAT YEAR the tensions that eventually would lead the United States into a four-year struggle for its continued existence began to mount to the breaking point. Middlebury students and faculty became intensely interested in the political situation; most of them supported the election of Lincoln in 1860's presidential campaign.

Word of the surrender of Fort Sumter to Confederate forces on April 13, 1861, provoked conservative Vermonters into swift and impressive reaction. By May 2, the state—which in April had been completely immobilized—had a fully equipped regiment (including a Middlebury company) ready to march from Rutland.

The feverish patriotism that burst into life on Middlebury's campus with the advent of war was typical of that which enabled the entire state to mobilize with such speed. On the night of April 13, informal rallies were held in the college dormitories. A few days later, a huge Union flag made with the aid of village women was raised to the Old Chapel steeple. Hundreds of people from Middlebury and surrounding towns cheered wildly as the banner was hoisted, and there were speeches from every member of the faculty and from orators elected by the members of each college class.

Meetings were held in town to pledge men and money to support the Union. Bunting and flags fluttered from every public building and most private ones. Transportation facilities were turned over to the state by private individuals. Uniforms took shape beneath the capable fingers of village matrons.

THE college men, who were not members of the Middlebury Union Guards, organized themselves into a student company. Virtually every man on campus became a member of the Middlebury College Guards, who were soon equipped with uniforms and guns and began to drill regularly. During 1861, war meetings with songs and speeches became an integral part of college life. The two upper classes stayed relatively intact until graduation, when many enlisted with their home-town companies. But underclassmen left school at such a rate that enrollment had dropped by one-half in the space of a few months, and many courses were entirely depleted of students.



In the 1860s the approach to Old Chapel was called "Waldo Road".

Slowly the lines were drawn for the awful drama of a civil war that, despite all of the mediocre articles, books, and films built around it, has never grown cold to American minds. And our remote college, snug in its supporting mountains, was as much a part of the drama as every other American community.

Far north as it was, Middlebury knew the division of sympathies which, perhaps, is the very factor that makes any civil conflict so terribly bitter. On the day that the Confederate Congress first met in Mobile, Alabama, John A. Shepard, of Middlebury's class of 1838, served as Chaplain. And (*Text continues on page* 12)

PHOTOGRAPH FROM BRADY COLLECTION, NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Byron Sunderland

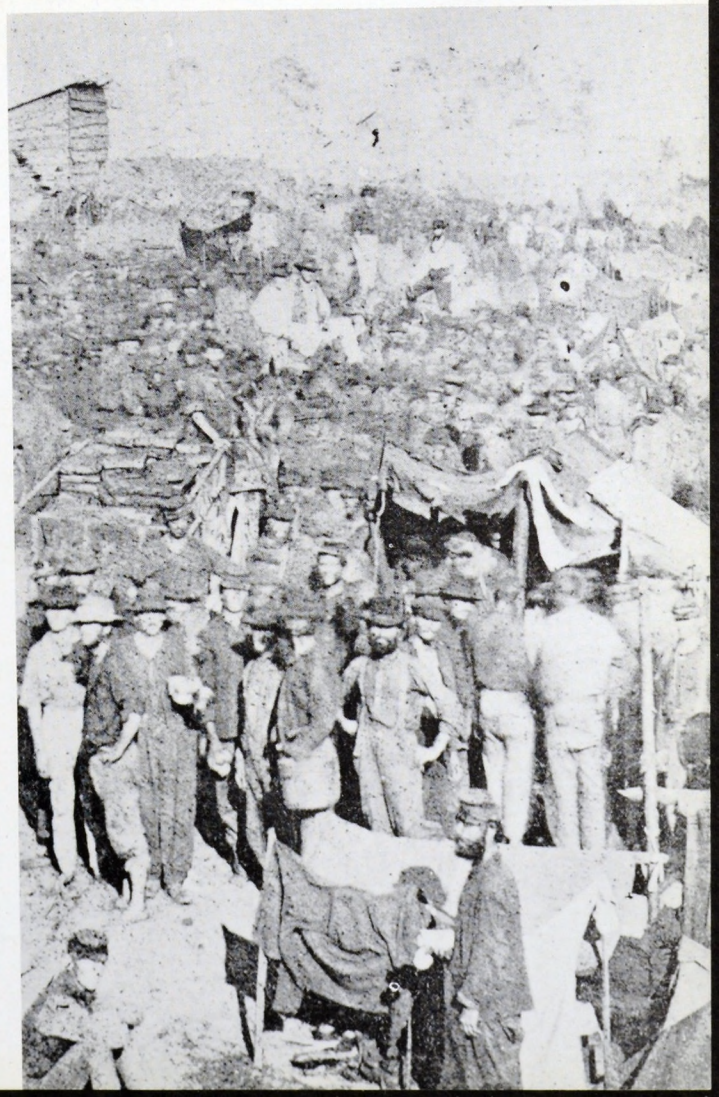
Two classmates served as Chaplains of the United States Senate and the Confederate Congress. John A. Shepard of the Class of 1838 opened the Confederate Congress with a prayer when it first met at Mobile, Alabama. His classmate Byron Sunderland (left), a leading abolitionist, served as Chaplain of the U. S. Senate from 1861 to 1864.

J. F. SMITH, JR.

Symbolic of the numerous decorations for bravery and valor received by many of the 155 Middlebury men who served in the War Between the States is the Medal of Honor (below) won at the battle of Salem Heights near Fredericksburg, Va., by Franklin G. Butterfield while serving with the Sixth Vermont Volunteers. The medal is now on display in the Egbert Starr Library.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM BRADY COLLECTION, NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Fourteen Middlebury men never returned to the campus. They were killed in action. Three died from wounds suffered while fighting in the swamps shown above during the Battle of the Wilderness. They were, George D. Davenport, Albert A. Crane and Gardner Gibson.



Some Middlebury men were prisoners of war. Austin Spoor and Henry D. Smith were prisoners at Andersonville Prison (right) in Georgia. Thomas H. Davis of the Class of 1857 and a native of Richmond, Va., was captured by the Union Army during Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg and imprisoned at Johnson's Island, Boston Harbor. He made a sensational escape to Canada and later rejoined the Confederate Army.

Judge Richard S. Tuthill

General Horace H. Thomas

Elijah B. Sherman

Three Middlebury College veterans of the Civil War who became outstanding lawyers in the late 1800s were Elijah B. Sherman, General Horace H. Thomas and Judge Richard S. Tuthill.

Mr. Sherman graduated from Middlebury in 1860 and served with the 9th Vermont Infantry. After the war he studied law at the University of Chicago. He served in the Illinois legislature and held many elective offices in that state. Mr. Sherman was well known in Chicago literary circles and his address delivered on the death of General Grant "received favorable comment." In 1894 he was elected to the Middlebury College Board of Trustees.

General Thomas after graduating from Middlebury in 1857 studied law before entering the army in 1861. He saw considerable action throughout the war. At the end of hostilities he served as speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives. General Thomas was the first president of the Northwestern Alumni Association of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Judge Tuthill graduated in 1863 and immediately joined the army in the field at Vicksburg and remained a soldier until the close of the war. He served in several important battles and campaigns with General Sherman. After serving as United States District Attorney in Chicago for three years, he was elected by more than 50,000 votes majority over his opponent to the position of Judge of the Circuit Court. A position he held for many years.

700 miles away, in Washington, D.C., his classmate Byron Sunderland, a leading abolitionist, was acting as Chaplain for the U.S. Senate. One can imagine the irony of their prayers in juxtaposition.

On May 27, 1861, the Vermont regiment with Middlebury and Rutland companies as advance troops —made what the *New York Tribune* termed "the first permanent occupation of the sacred soil of Virginia" at Newport News. Sergeant Henry Bennett, color guard of Vermont's forces, was the first Middlebury man to leave school for the war—and the first member of the regiment to die in Virginia.

In the records of the war years, we find accounts of Middlebury men serving in every possible sphere. The bulk were foot soldiers; many were officers, doctors, or chaplains. Some fought with cavalry units. But before they were soldiers or doctors or chaplains they were men, and each one viewed the war in which he was involved according to the nature of his own private humanity.

As in all conflicts, there were heroes—those who through conviction or vitality or sheer luck fought splendidly and sometimes even succeeded in mining something glamorous from the muck of war. James Meech Warner, who was brevetted as a brigadier-general in 1864 for leading a bayonet charge at Fisher's Hill, in the Shenandoah Valley, was a hero's hero. Brother of the Ezra Warner who donated Warner Science Hall in 1900, and graduate of West Point after attendance at Middlebury, he seems to have been a marvel of modesty and steady bravery. It was always Warner who was first over the breastworks; at a battle near Spottsylvania in 1863 he retained command of his inexperienced forces after a bullet has entered through his neck and passed out through his right ear, leaving his men only when all danger that the untried soldiers might retreat in panic was over.

A Medal of Honor resting in a glass case at Starr Library reminds us of Franklin G. Butterfield, who left school in 1862 and won the badge for bravery in action while a Lt.-Colonel with the Sixth Vermont Volunteers in the Battle of Salem Heights. And we smile to read of the zeal of Aldace F. Walker, who caused a considerable stir when he rode in from a nearby military camp on the morning of his graduation in August, 1862, and stood up in a brand-new uniform to deliver his commencement oration.

There is a darker bravery that is usually mute, for it is involved with the very inarticulate business of dying. Of such bravery, we find one account in George G. Benedict's VERMONT IN THE CIVIL WAR. It concerns a young soldier (Charles G. Newton, '65) who left Middlebury College to enlist and was killed near Cold Harbor when he was struck by a shell that severed his foot at the ankle. The only sound he made was to whisper, as he clutched the bleeding stump: "Captain, you don't know how that hurt."

There were others who enlisted and were more fortunate. Typical of these is Henry H. Vail, class of '60, who writes of his experience with an Ohio company: "I greatly enjoyed the service. I kept well during the whole time and performed my duty every day. It was like a vacation . . . we were very fortunate; but I have no tale of bloodshed to tell my children and grandchildren."

MANY of the men who, unlike Vail, interrupted their educations at Middlebury in order to enter the army never re-entered school. Among those who did return, one—Edwin H. Higley—provides us with an insight into what Middlebury's most serious young idealists thought about the war.

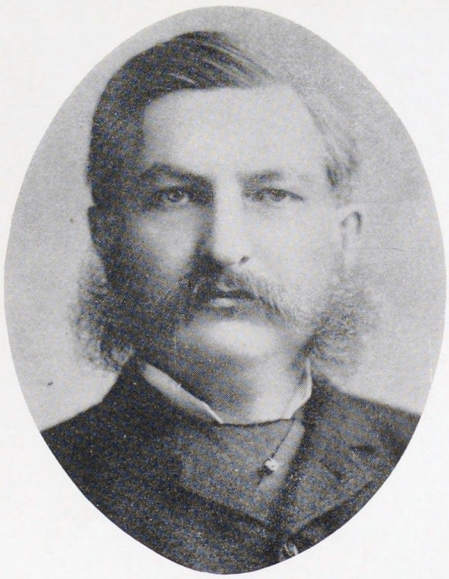
Higley, according to W. Storrs Lee, had given the sophomore class's oration at the campus flag-raising of April, 1861. Shortly after that, he wrote an earnest letter to an older sister: ". . . and I want you to get your mind ready to hear that I have enlisted. For I am really thinking very seriously on the subject. It does not seem to me that religious young men ever had a more open opportunity for good than by going into camp and exerting their influence . . . These verses I wrote and read at DU the other night . . .

When wrong is gathering for the fight
We do not fear to raise our hands
And battle boldly for the right.
Nor does it seems so brave a deed
To stand amid the cannon's peal,
And, in our country's hour of need,
To bare our bosoms to the steel . . ."

FACED with the opposition of his parents to his desire for enlistment, Higley wrote them a letter arguing his case and, with an earnestness probably rare even on a campus full of prospective young theologians, clinched his argument as follows: ". . . it is the universal testimony of everyone that a camp is a terrible place for corruption and demoralization among the soldiers. . . . Our classmate S. . . . is a fellow easily influenced and if we let him go off alone it will be very easy for him to be led off by evil comrades; but if John W. . . . and I go, he will associate with us, and we can do him good; and not only him but others; so if ever I wish to do any good in a religious point of view, I could never have a better opportunity."

His parents, convinced of his sincerity, reluctantly gave their blessing to Higley; and he joined scores of young Vermonters fighting in the South. After the war, having spent a year in some of the worst of the wretched Confederate prisoner-of-war camps, Higley (who later taught Greek and German at Middlebury) re-entered school.

He must have found the college atmosphere very different from that he left in 1861, for the Reconstruction period at Middlebury was rivalled in gloom only by the black days of the 40's.



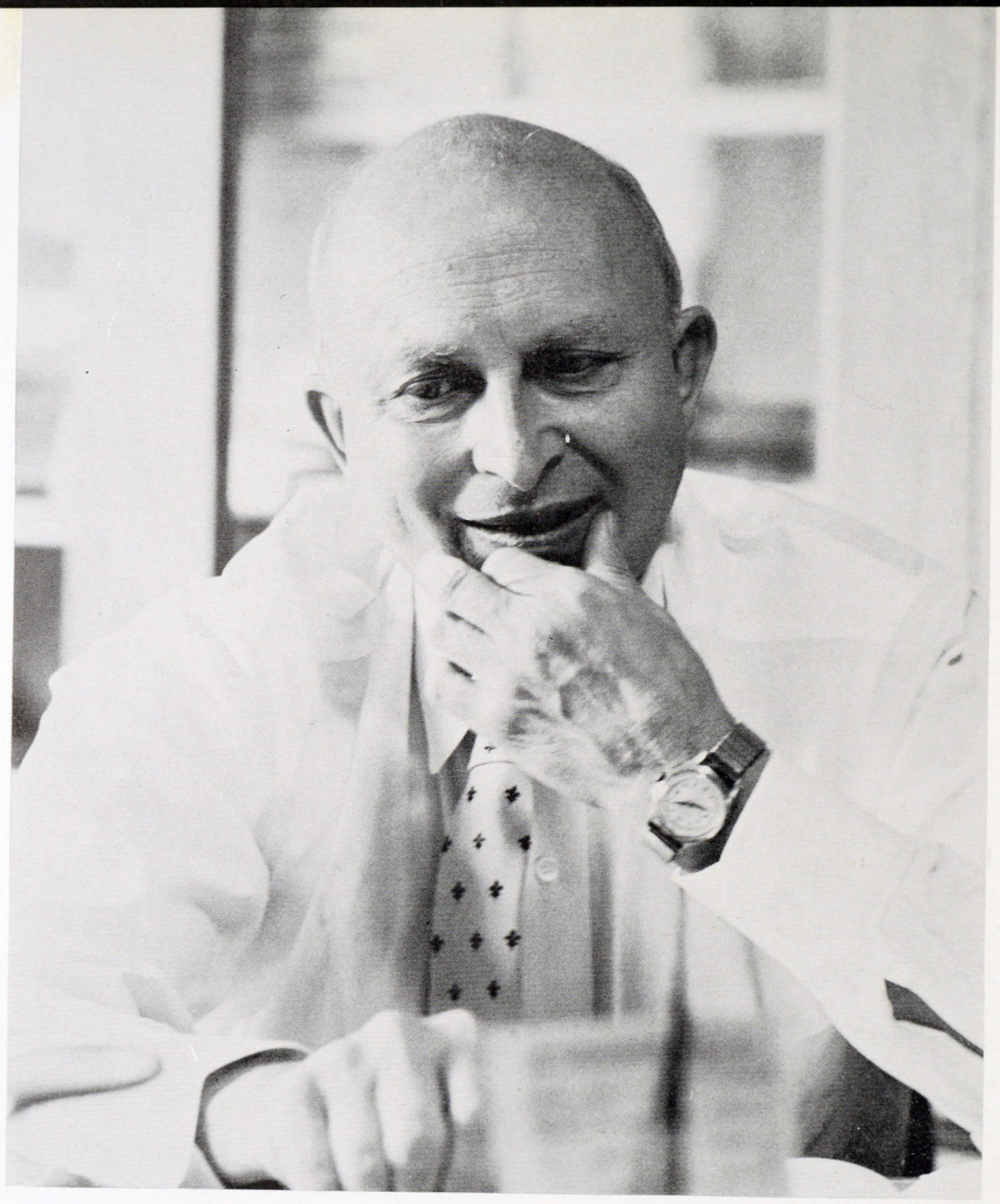
Colonel A. F. Walker

In his senior year at Middlebury (1862) Colonel Walker enlisted in the army and spent a vacation just prior to graduating mastering the details of military life. On the day of graduation he stepped upon the stage in the uniform of a first lieutenant to deliver the valedictory. During the war he rendered marked service at the battle of Cedar Creek, was active in many other engagements, and commanded his regiment at the battle of Opequan. He left the army on June 14, 1865 to study law in Burlington, Vt., with Hon. George F. Edmunds. And while pursuing his studies wrote the history of The Vermont Brigade in the Shenandoah Valley. *He served in the U. S. Senate and held other important positions in the Federal government.*

ENROLLMENT had dropped by one-half—this when the College had only begun to make a real recovery from its earlier slump. In 1864, Starr Hall, which had been erected in Middlebury's pre-war renewal of prosperity, was almost completely destroyed by fire. And it seemed that the War had disrupted the College's contact with the non-academic world; those men who did return brought with them new attitudes not in harmony with the old New England austerity that still characterized Middlebury.

Gradually, as had to happen if the College were to survive, conditions began to change; and the school realigned itself with the community. A very significant step in this process of realignment was the admittance of women students in 1883. It is interesting to note that the first young lady so admitted, Miss May Belle Chellis, graduated a year early—and at the head of her class!

From the 1880's on, Middlebury continued to grow; and by 1900 it had gained a reputation as one of the leading colleges in the country. (*Please turn to page* 15)



EIGHTH IN A SERIES OF PORTRAITS OF . . . .

Middlebury's Long-Time Faculty

BENJAMIN F. WISSLER

BENJAMIN F. WISSLER, Professor of Physics, has the reputation for being one of the ablest of the College's faculty.

A native of Lincoln, Pa., he received two degrees from Muhlenberg College (B.S., '26, Doctor of Science, ('50) and a Master of Science degree from Columbia ('32).

His merit as a teacher has been recognized by many generations of students long after they have graduated from Middlebury. One alumnus back this spring for the reunion of his class, remarked that Professor Wissler's teaching is "an unusual, unique and worthwhile experience."

A colorful and engaging lecturer, Professor Wissler believes that "the primary role of a teacher is not to give fact but to stimulate—to make the students aware of intellectual activity. The student's primary job is to receive these intellectual stimuli and broaden his understanding of the world and its scientific, social, artistic elements."

Professor Wissler is a stern taskmaster. He stresses the need for precise and (*Please turn to page* 15)

MIDDLEBURY'S LONG-TIME FACULTY

(*Continued from page 14*)

adequate thinking in his physic courses.

In 1930 he came to Middlebury as an assistant to Professor Bryant, an outstanding scientist and head of the Physics Department for many years. In his early days at the College, Professor Wissler also assisted the late Professor Perkins and Professor Bowker in the Mathematics Department. When Professor Bryant retired in 1937, he became head of the Physics Department, and in the past quarter of a century has lived up to the challenge of constant change in the scientific world. Professor Wissler has not only kept abreast of all of the changes in the subject matter of his department, but has kept Middlebury's program current and progressive with the changing needs of physics.

MEMO FROM THE DEANS

(*Continued from page 6*)

Dean of Men . . .

dents are informed specifically about these regulations when they arrive and they are also spelled out in the Student Handbook. One of the more controversial rules among students is the present college regulation requiring all students to attend a minimum of six college chapel services, or acceptable substitutes, in the course of each semester. This year a special student-faculty committee has been considering the amendment of the regulation. Until such time as final action is taken by the Board of Trustees the rule will continue in effect.

Concerning the consumption of alcoholic beverages, students are informed upon their arrival here that Vermont law strictly prohibits the consumption, purchase or possession of alcoholic beverages by all persons under 21 years of age. The College does not specifically prohibit students from drinking, except at certain places and times, such as athletic events or outdoors on the immediate campus. While leaving it to the student to control his own actions with regards to the consumption of alcoholic beverages, the College does not in any way condone drunkenness and students can be asked to withdraw if they are not mature enough to undertake the privilege which has been granted to them in controlling their own actions on this score.

Dormitories must, of course, always have certain basic regulations. At Middlebury men students may come and go as they wish. They may leave the campus, spend nights away, and need not inform anyone although they are urged to tell room-mates, or Dorm Residents, in the event that they are not going to be in the dormitory for any lengthy period of time. In the event that students cause damage in dormitories they are billed as quickly as possible for damage which they have brought about, or which has been done in the rooms which they have rented. For hygenic reasons, and also to lessen the possibility of fire, the Superintendent of Dormitories has ruled that no cooking facilities are permitted in dormitory rooms. In addition, most dormitories have self-imposed regulations concerning "quiet" hours in the evening in order to permit a maximum of study. Women guests, except for parents, are not permitted in the Men's Dorms.

One further area of the student's life at Middlebury is ruled by regulation. In accordance with faculty action, attendance at classes at Middlebury is left to the discretion of the individual professor. He may state attendance requirements in his course at the beginning of each academic semester. In the event that a student cuts a course beyond the limit which the faculty member has imposed for his course, the faculty member may put him on warning and require him to attend class thereafter at the risk of being docked one-half an academic credit for every unexcused absence thereafter. Strict attendance requirements are often found in language courses where the faculty feel everyday attendance is vital to success, and in general, in freshmen and sophomore courses. For the most part other upperclass courses are relatively free of attendance requirements and again the student himself is responsible for attending class and getting his work done. In most cases students who are doing unsuccessful work are put on warning by the professor and in the event that a student is on warning in two courses at the same time he is asked to come to the Dean's Office for a consultation concerning the situation.

The brevity of this summary of regulations for men at Middlebury would indicate the truth of the basic premise of this column that for the most part men at Middlebury are made responsible for their own conduct, and in so far as possible, their actions are not regulated strictly by the College. It is quite true that from time to time young men come to college and are not prepared to undertake these responsibilities. Some of these young men undoubtedly fail academically because of this lack of maturity. On the other hand, for those who can control their actions, or learn self-discipline in their early years, the lessons which they have received here will undoubtedly stand them in better stead during their later lives than if they had been closely regulated and shepherded from class to class.

Thomas A. Reynolds

Dean of Women . . .

houses will not be available to them. The Board of Governors has made many plans for a full and varied program for the class entering in September 1961. Cultural events, such as speakers, art exhibits and music as well as many social functions have been planned.

I have been very pleased with the response of the students (both freshmen and upperclassmen) to the program. A year without fraternity rushing and pledging would present a very dismal prospect were there not a fully planned program, and there could be none, were there no adequate building. For this reason we anticipate that next year will see much greater use of Redfield Proctor Hall which provides not only a place for recreation for all students, but a useful activity for those students who are interested in working with and for others. And they may help to develop their own program which is a valuable experience. In conclusion, I must say that Proctor Hall has exceeded all my expectations and I know it fills a real need now and will continue to make even more valuable contributions to the education of the students in the future.

Elizabeth B. Kelly

MIDDLEBURY AND THE CIVIL WAR

(*Continued from page 13*)

At Middlebury, as throughout America, the Civil War made way for a new age.

Isabel Gomez has just completed her sophomore year at Middlebury where she has been an honor student. While in her last two years at the Montpelier (Vt.) High School she won $600 in writing contests on the local, state and national level. Two of her essays were published in the Vermont Historical Society magazine. An English major, she plans on teaching secondary school when she graduates from Middlebury.

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